

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS****Regarding the Claims in General:**

Claims 1-23 remain pending. Claims 8, 10, 12, 15, 16, and 19-21 have been amended to address issues raised by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action.

**Regarding The Allowable Subject Matter:**

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-11 and 17-22.

**Regarding the Objections to the Claims:**

Claims 8, 16, and 19-22 have been objected to. In response, claims 8 and 19-22 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Claim 16, however has not been amended as suggested, but instead, has been made dependent on claim 15, as originally intended.

**Regarding the Prior Art Rejections:**

Claims 12-14 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,432,500 to Scripps ("Scripps"). Additionally, claims 15 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,819,071 to Graham et al. ("Graham"). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

Scripps is directed to a detector system housed in a module 10 having a screw base 14 that is connectable to a power line by installation in a conventional light socket 30, and includes a socket 18 for receiving a light bulb 22. The system includes a detector 42, a standby battery 40 and a charger 38 and an alarm 46. Scripps' main concern is to be able to conveniently deactivate an alarm 46 when the system is mounted in an inaccessible location such as on a ceiling. This is accomplished by means of a switch 44 controlled by a logic unit 50, which, in turn, responds to rapid on/off operation of a wall switch 36 to temporarily deactivate the alarm. Detector 42 may be a smoke alarm, a motion detector, or the like.

As amended, independent claim 12 now recites:

A small thin disc configured and sized for insertion in a battery cavity between a battery operated load device and a battery powering said load device, the disc having a motion detector and an automatic shut off timing

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device whose action is inhibited by the motion detector.

There are several important differences between this and what is disclosed in Scripps. For example, the claimed automatic shut off timing device and the motion detector that resets the timing device, are both included in a small, thin disk positioned between a battery-operated load and the battery. Scripps does not disclose, teach, or suggest a thin disk or any other assembly positioned in a battery cavity..

In addition, Scripps does not have a shut-off timer for the load device, the operation of which is *inhibited* by a motion detector. Rather, Scripps teaches (1) detecting motion; (2) closing the circuit which sounds an alarm in response to motion detection; and (3) providing timed deactivation of the horn. In other words, Scripps' shut-off timer is for the detector, not the load. This is exactly the opposite of what happens according to the device of claim 12.

With respect to claims 15 and 23, Graham teaches an automatic garage door closing system designed to be retrofitted for use in a combination with a garage door opener. The automatic garage door closing system includes a control box with a timer that is set by a user for a desired delay time. The system operates in response to the garage door being opened, and re-activates the garage door opener to close the garage door after a selected delay time. In other words the timer in the control box activates the load (i.e., the garage door opener) after the time-out interval. It does not cause the load to be deactivated.

In contrast, claim 15 as amended recites:

A self-contained electrical circuit for insertion in series with a battery power source for a battery powered load device including a timer that automatically times out thereby shutting off the battery power to the load device at a predetermined time after the load device is turned on.

In accordance with amended independent claim 15, the claimed electrical circuit includes a timer that automatically times out thereby shutting off the battery power to the load device at a predetermined time after the load device is turned on. It is the timing out of the timer that shuts off the power. Graham does not teach, disclose, or describe a circuit having a timer that automatically times out thereby shutting off battery power to a load, as recited in claim 15.

Independent claim 23 is also not anticipated by Graham. Among other features, claim 23 recites a programmable master controller which is operable to "provide control signals to [an]

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electronic switch; and provide a gradual transition between the conductive and non-conductive states of the electronic switch, whereby the current in the circuit path changes gradually when the switch changes from its conductive to its non-conductive state". Graham does not teach gradually changing current in the circuit path.

The Examiner references col. 3, line 1 of Graham as teaching the gradually changing limitation of claim 23. However, the full sentence, from col. 2, line 66 to col. 3 line 2, reads: "Opening of the door sensor switch removes the power from the microprocessor, ceases operation and resets the automatic garage door closing system." This has nothing at all to do with gradual transition.

Thus, Applicants' independent claims 12, 15, and 23 are patentably distinct from Scripps and Graham. Claims 13 and 14 depend directly or indirectly from above discussed independent claim 12 and claim 16, as amended, depends from claim 15. These claims are, therefore, patentable for the same reasons, as well as because of the combination of features in those claims with the features set forth in independent claims 12 and 15.

In view of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully solicited.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by Facsimile to (571) 273-8300 addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, and Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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June 22, 2006

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